



Newsletter

521 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10175-0083 Number 148 June 2003

23RD ANNUAL

Seminar on Standards of Excellence in Hand Bookbinding

Wednesday, October 22, 2003

Registration at the Hyatt Regency Denver, Denver, Colorado: 7PM – 9PM

Thursday, October 23, 2003

Registration at Hyatt Regency Denver: 8:30AM – 11:00AM & 1:00PM – 4:30PM

TOURS

Tour to Boulder (limited to 48): 9:30AM – 3:30PM

Denver book arts show/studio on your own: 1:00PM – 5:00PM

FOUNDATION SESSIONS

Demonstration: Constructing a double tray drop spine box

Presented by Craig Jensen at the Hyatt Regency Denver: 9AM – 12 NOON OR 1PM – 4PM

OPENING RECEPTION FOR GBW EXHIBITION *In Flight*

Denver Public Library (15 minute walk or shuttles will run from hotel to Library): 5:30PM – 7:30PM

Dinner on your own

VENDOR ROOM HOURS

The Vendor Room will be open on Friday from 8:00AM through 5:00PM and 6:00PM – 6:45PM, and on Saturday from 8:00AM to 3:30PM

Friday, October 24, 2003

Registration: 7:30AM – 8:15AM

Coffee & Refreshments: 7:45AM – 8:45AM

Announcements: 8:30AM

MORNING SEMINAR SESSION: 8:45AM – 12 NOON

AFTERNOON SEMINAR SESSION: 1:30PM – 4:45PM

GBW Annual General Meeting: 5:00PM – 6:00PM

Friday Night Forum with light refreshments and cash bar: 6:15PM – 8:30PM

Dinner on your own

Saturday, October 25, 2003

Coffee & Refreshments: 7:45AM – 8:45AM

MORNING SEMINAR SESSION: 8:45AM – 12 NOON

AFTERNOON SEMINAR SESSION: 1:30PM – 4:45PM

Cash bar: 6:00PM

Banquet: 7:00PM

The banquet speaker is Joyce Meskis, owner of the Tattered Cover Bookstore

The Annual Live Auction directly follows the speaker

Sunday, October 26, 2003

Continental Breakfast: Hyatt Regency Denver: 8:30AM – 10:00AM

Symposium on Education in the Book Arts: 9:00AM – 12 NOON

Tour to local printing / book arts group: 1:00PM – 5:00PM

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In Memoriam

On March 4 the world of fine binding lost one of its leading exponents with the passing of Hugo Peller.

The son of a Swiss masterbinder, Hugo followed in his father's footsteps. From his beginnings as an apprentice from 1934-1938, he went on to study binding, finishing, and design with Professor A. Jeanne at the Ecole Estienne, Paris, from 1945-1946, completing his studies with honors.

From 1946-1967 he taught binding at the Fachgewerbeschule (specialized trade school) in Solthurn, and in 1978 he was a founding member of the Centro del Bel Libro. After retiring from the Centro del Bel Libro, Hugo made several trips to the United States in the mid-1980s to teach workshops for the Guild. It was while he taught at the Centro del Bel Libro and during these trips that Hugo influenced some of this country's best binders. Often honored for his design binding work he was elected a member of Meister der Einbandkunst in 1955.

While Hugo will always be remembered for his binding and teaching, what stands out are memories of his resourcefulness, sense of humor, and love of life. As a teacher, he set high expectations for his students' work, and helped them rise to the challenge with encouragement and support. When a student had a problem or something was not working out the way it should have, he always had a (randomly numbered) trick at the ready, turning what could have been a disaster into a valuable learning opportunity. During his workshops he instinctively sized up the participants, identifying those who would do well and those who would need extra assistance. It should not be a surprise that many of Hugo's students are among the best practitioners of the craft.

Once when he was given a collection of signatures to bind by a student, Hugo looked at the student and asked if he really wanted him to bind *this* book. The student said yes, and Hugo laughed, saying it would work out well. The student and Hugo worked on their designs together, the student learning about the relationship between text and design in the process. They bound their books together and when finished Hugo presented the student the binding he had done. Only later when showing the binding to some fellow students did he realize that the book was called *Kisses*, describing 19 of them in graphic detail. The student had never looked at the actual text. The design took on new significance for the student, especially Hugo's choice of red for the binding. When asked by a student

why her marbling worked so much better in Ascona than at home in Germany, Hugo responded that it was because of the warmer climate; that the water in Ascona was less wet. Whereupon the woman bought several bottles of water in Ascona to take home.

As much as Hugo loved his work and teaching, he loved the outdoors and sharing his world with his students. He would often bring his students to the alps above Ascona, where they would enjoy food, grappa, and hikes. After Switzerland, Finland became Hugo's second home, where he spent many months searching for solace and inspiration in the endless forests.

His epitaph reads: Fange nie an, aufzuhören, höre nie auf, anzufangen [Never start quitting, never stop beginning]. He will be missed.

[Special thanks to Sarah Creighton, Claudia Cohen, Monique Lallier, Todd Pattison, Deborah Wender, and others for sharing their memories of Hugo.]

Peter Verheyen

Publications

BOOK IN SHEETS AVAILABLE:

from Asa Peavy: POB 422185, San Francisco, CA 94142-2185; 415.285.6475; bullnettle@attbi.com; Scans are available on request.

Anatomy, Alice Jones (Berkeley poet and psychiatrist). Bullnettle, 1998. 20 poems; 8 reduction linocuts by Coriander Reisbord; 100 copies. Designed and printed by Asa Peavy. Set in Gill Sans cast by Michael & Winifred Bixler. Printed on Rives lightweight. 40 pp; 10.5" x 4.75". \$125.00. Two copies available.

A Life of Merlin, John Gohorry (English poet). Bullnettle, 2000. A sequence of 30 poems based on Geoffrey of Monmouth's Vita Merlini. Monoprint frontispiece by John Gruenwald (San Francisco artist), with 6 smaller images in the text made from photoengravings of a part of the frontispiece. 95 copies. Designed and printed by Asa Peavy. Printed from handset Poliphilus and Blado types on Somerset Textured 250gsm paper. Deckled edges. 52 pp + 4 pp insert; 11" x 7". \$115.00. Three copies available.

John DePol: A Celebration of His Work, Many Hands. Yellow Barn, 1994. Contributions from 23 private presses. As new; in sheets. \$200.00

Morte D'Arthur, Alfred, Lord Tennyson. Chatto & Windus, 1937. Facsimile of a manuscript "designed, written out, and illuminated" by Alberto Sangorski. Lacks cover. The book is bound in such a way that the